

A New Species of Japanese Ovulidae

BY

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(1 Text figure)

AMONG TWENTY-TWO LOTS of Ovulidae received from Professor Masao Azuma was a shell which proved to be new to science and which is described herewith.

This new species was taken from lobster nets set in deep water off the Kii Peninsula in central Japan. I take pleasure in naming it in honor of Professor Masao

Primovula azumai CATE, spec. nov.

(Figure 1)

Shell of medium size for the genus, ovate, thinly formed, sub-translucent; terminals well produced, sharply, pointedly so in back, squarely so in front; dorsum roundly inflated centrally, sloping sharply to either terminal, saddle-like; dorsum numerous, very distinctly, transversely incisedly striate; base inflatedly ovate, narrowing abruptly and thickly to the front; a short, elevated, double-knobbed funiculum at the rear; base striate, with a longitudinal, narrow callus the length of the central base; columella fairly broad, striate, noticeably depressed, deepening toward the front, becoming a well developed fossula; a well formed adaxial carinal ridge outlines both; aperture narrow, slightly curving; outer lip thick, rounded, semi-dentate, with large, poorly formed teeth; color a deep, rich honey-yellow to yellow-brown, with carinal ridge, tip of funiculum, and teeth a lighter color.

Length, 9.6 mm; width, 4.4 mm; height, 3.9 mm.

Type Locality: 1 - 2 km off Kirimezaki, Kii Peninsula, Japan, in 20 - 30 fathoms; leg. M. Azuma, 13 February 1970.

Holotype: Azuma collection, No. 14826.

The photograph is by Bertram Draper, the processing by Takeo Susuki.

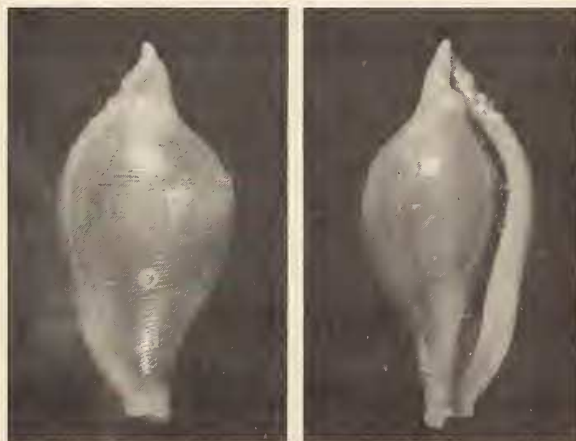


Figure 1

Primovula azumai CATE, spec. nov.
Holotype; Azuma no. 14826 × 6

Azuma, who has contributed so much to our knowledge of the Recent Japanese Ovulidae, and with whom I have enjoyed working.